

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1900,

BY

R. T. TURNER, M.D., Ch.B. (Vict.), MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

AND

J. A. DAVENPORT, C.E., SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR.

NANTWICH:—ALFRED E. HILL, THE SQUARE.



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NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.



Medical Officer of Health—R. T. TURNER.

Population at Census (1891)—22,903.

Estimated Population at middle of 1900—23,777.

Area in Acres—98,458.

Birth-rate per 1,000 living—25·1.

Death-rate per 1,000 living—15·5.

Death-rate from the principal Zymotic Diseases—0·9.

Deaths under one year per 1,000 births—94.

AREA AND POPULATION.—Four Townships (Tiverton, Tilstone-Fearnall, Beeston, and Burwardsley) were taken from the Nantwich Rural Sanitary District and added to the Tarvin Rural Sanitary District on July 1st, 1892. Parts of three Townships (Church Coppenhall, Shavington-cum-Gresty, and Wistaston) were taken from the Nantwich Rural Sanitary District and added to the Borough of Crewe on November 9th, 1892. The area and population of the Nantwich Rural District have, therefore, since the Census, been reduced as follows:—

					Area in Acres.	Population at Census.	
Nantwich R.S.D. in 1891	...	...	...	...	104,932	...	28,326
Less portion added to Tarvin R.S.D.	5,617	...	1,401
Less portion added to Crewe Borough			857	...	4,022
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Nantwich R.S.D.	98,458		22,903

The whole district has been divided for registration purposes into four sub-districts. These are as follows:—

- 1.—CREWE, having an area of 31,145 acres, and an estimated population of 11,547. It includes Batherton, Barthomley, Basford, Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Chorlton, Crewe, Doddington, Haslington, Hatherton, Hough, Hunsterson, Lea, Rope, Stapeley, Walgherton, Warmingham, Weston, Willaston, and Wybunbury, and parts of Church Coppenhall, Shavington-cum-Gresty, and Wistaston.
- 2.—NANTWICH, with an area of 21,300 acres, and an estimated population of 3,528, includes Acton, Alvaston, Aston-juxta-Mondrum, Austerson, Baddington, Brindley, Burland, Cholmondeston, Coole Pilate, Edleston, Faddiley, Henhull, Hurleston, Leighton, Minshull Vernon, Poole, Stoke, Woolstanwood, and Worleston.
- 3.—BUNBURY has an area of 20,979 acres, and an estimated population of 4,059. It comprises the townships of Alpraham, Bickerton, Bulkeley, Bunbury, Calveley, Cholmondeley, Church Minshull, Egerton, Haughton, Peckforton, Ridley, Spurstow, Wardle, and Wettenhall.
- 4.—WRENBURY, which has an area of 25,034 acres, and an estimated population of 4,643. It includes Audlem, Baddiley, Broomhall, Buerton, Chorley, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Hankelow, Newhall, Sound, Woodcott, and Wrenbury-cum-Frith.

I have estimated the population of all the sub-districts as being the same as last year, as I consider that in all probability the population had previously been rather over-estimated. The Birth-rates for these four districts have been respectively 27·1, 22·6, 22·1, 24·7.

The death-rates for the same districts have been respectively 15·0, 16·3, 15·0, 16·5.

The birth-rate was 1·2 below the mean birth-rate of the past five years, and the death-rate was 0·8 above the mean death-rate of the same five years.

The numbers of births during the four quarters were respectively 153, 169, 152, 123. The illegitimate births numbered 36, as compared with 39 last year.

The gross numbers of deaths registered during the four quarters were respectively 144, 84, 84, and 86. These latter numbers include deaths of non-residents of the District dying in the Workhouse Infirmary.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Fifty-six of the deaths registered were those of children under one year of age. The causes of death as entered in the register were as follows:—Suffocation, 1; Debility, 4; Measles, 1; Natural Causes, 1; Convulsions, 6; Marasmus, 4; Inanition, 2; Diarrhœa, 3; Bee-sting, 1; Dentition, 3; Premature Birth, 9; Tubercular Meningitis, 4; Tabes Mesenterica, 2; Malnutrition, 1; “Brain Pressure,” 1; Spina Bifida, 1; Bronchitis, 3; “Found dead in Bed,” 1; Intus-susception, 1; Gastric Catarrh, 1; Gastro Enteritis, 1; Broncho-pneumonia, 1; Convulsions, 1; Pulmonary Congestion, 1; Asthenia, 1; Asphyxia Neonatorum, 1.

The deaths under one year of age in the four previous years numbered respectively 78, 90, 64, and 68.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASE:—

- (a) **SCARLET FEVER.**—Five deaths were registered as being due to this disease, one at Hough in January, aged 6 years, one at Barthomley in January, aged 6 years, one at Wybunbury in February, aged 2 years, one at Weston in October, aged 2 years, and one at Faddiley, aged 28 years.
- (b) **DIPHTHERIA.**—Two deaths resulted from this disease during the year, one at Coppenhall in January, aged 10 years, and one at Cholmondeston in January aged 5 years.
- (c) **CROUP.**—Two deaths were registered as being due to “Croup,” one at the Workhouse Infirmary in January, aged 10 years, and one at Shavington in April, aged 4 years.
- (d) **MEASLES.**—Four deaths resulted from this disease—one in January at Hough, aged 9 months; one at Lea in February, aged 17 months; one in May at Brindley, aged 12 months; and one in October at Haslington, aged 2 years.
- (e) **ENTERIC FEVER.**—Two deaths resulted from this disease—one at Haslington in October, aged 32 years, and one at Weston in November, aged 60 years.
- (f) **DIARRHŒA.**—The deaths from this disease numbered six—one at Dodcott in January, aged 3½ months; one at Wrenbury in July, aged 53 years; one at Wistaston in September, aged 8 months; one at Acton in October, aged 1 month; one at Baddiley in October, aged 3½ months; and one at Willaston in December, aged 6 years.
- (g) **WHOOPING COUGH.**—Three deaths were registered as due to this disease. They were as follows—one at Willaston in January, aged 19 months; one at Willaston in February, aged 2 years; and one at Shavington in May, aged 2 years.

INFLUENZA.—Twelve deaths were ascribed as due to this disease. They were as follows—one at Hunsterson, aged 67 years; one at Shavington, aged 63 years; one at Acton, aged 47 years; one at Audlem, aged 80 years; all the above occurring during the month of January. During February four deaths were ascribed to the disease, viz.—one at Stapeley, aged 77 years; one at Audlem, aged 92 years; one at Haslington, aged 84 years; and one at Calveley, aged 6 years. In March a death occurred at Haslington of a child, aged 6 years, and that of a man at Checkley, aged 35 years. In April the death of a man aged 49 years, occurred at Haughton, and in December that of a young man at Blakenhall, aged 22, from this disease.

LUNG DISEASES.—The number of deaths from Phthisis of persons belonging to the Rural District was 18. This is equal to a death-rate of 0·75 per 1,000 living at all ages, and is higher by 0·04 than in 1899.

Bronchitis, Pleurisy, and Inflammation of the Lungs, caused the deaths of 53 persons belonging to the Rural District. This is equal to a death-rate of 2·2 per 1,000 living at all ages, and is almost exactly the rate for last year.

HEART DISEASE.—The deaths from this group of diseases numbered 46. This is equal to a death-rate of 1·9 per 1,000 living at all ages, and is higher by 0·3 than in 1899.

DEATHS FROM INJURIES, AND CORONER'S INQUESTS.—During the year 32 inquests were held. The causes of death as given by the Coroner after inquest were as follows:—Natural Causes, 10 cases; “Found dead in Bed,” 2 cases; Died from Exposure, 1 case; Fractured Skull, 1 case; Suffocated in Bed, 1 case; Found dead on Railway, 1 case; Suicide while of unsound Mind, 4 cases; Knocked down by Bicycle, 1 case; Run over, 3 cases; Found drowned, 1 case; Washing putrid Meat having wound on hand, 1 case; Manslaughter, 1 case; Scalds, 1 case; Bee-sting, 1 case; Drowned by accident, one case; Burnt through Night-dress taking fire, 1 case; Suicide by drowning, with no evidence as to state of mind, 1 case.

It appears to me that such verdicts as “Found dead,” and “Natural Causes,” are most unsatisfactory, and are hardly worth the trouble and expense of an inquest. It is safe to say that in almost all these cases, if proper trouble were taken and proper medical evidence obtained, with or without post-mortem examination, the cause of death might be properly ascertained.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.—Only two cases were registered during the year, in respect of which no certificate of the cause of death was forthcoming, from either a registered medical practitioner or from the Coroner, after inquest. These were the case of a child at Wilkesley, whose death was entered in the register as being probably due to convulsions, and that of an old man at Wybunbury, whose death was said to be probably due to senile decay.

COMPARISON OF DEATHS IN 1896 AND 1900.—As showing the marked improvement in the health of the District during the past five years, I have thought it would be instructive to compare the numbers of deaths at various ages and from various causes, in the years 1896 and 1900.

	1896.	1900.
Deaths over 65 years of age	101	130
Deaths under 1 year of age	78	56
Deaths from Phthisis	26	18
Deaths from Notifiable Diseases	23	10
Deaths from Diarrhoea, Whooping Cough, and Measles	16	13

The above table shows, I think, that although the general death-rate has not diminished, there has been a considerable decrease in the number of what are generally called “preventable deaths.”

As showing the improvement in the death-rate from *Diphtheria*, the following comparison may be of interest:—

	1896.	1900.
Cases notified	17	12
Deaths	14 (–88 per cent.)	3 (–25 per cent.)

The improvement in the case mortality, which is so very marked, is probably largely due to the improvement in medical treatment, the result of the general adoption of the antitoxic method, though doubtless some slight cases would be notified in 1900 which would not have been reported in 1896, when the Notification Act was not in force.

SICKNESS.—The following table, showing the number of cases of infectious diseases, and the deaths resulting therefrom, in the years 1896 to 1900, may be of interest. It will be seen that during the past year 201 cases of illness of a notifiable kind were reported to the Medical Officer of Health. Of these 164 were cases of Scarlet Fever, 9 of Diphtheria, 3 of Membranous Croup, 9 of Enteric Fever, 1 of Puerperal Fever, and 15 of Erysipelas.

CASES NOTIFIED.							DEATHS.						
YEAR.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	YEAR.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.
1896	109	9	8	4	2	—	1896	6	6	8	1	2	—
1897	117	11	—	4	1	10	1897	4	3	—	1	—	2
1898	94	16	4	14	—	14	1898	4	1	1	5	—	1
1899	59	27	—	11	2	14	1899	2	4	—	—	1	—
1900	164	9	3	9	1	15	1900	5	2	1	2	—	—
TOTALS	543	72	15	42	6	53	TOTALS	21	16	10	9	3	3

The following is a short account of the incidence of the notifiable diseases on the various Townships of the District:—

(a) **SCARLET FEVER.**—In *January* one case occurred at Alpraham, one at Aston-juxta-Mondrum, two at Basford, four at Barthomley, five at Blakenhall, one at Brindley, two at Weston, four at Hatherton, one at Ravensmoor, and three at Wybunbury. In *February* one case occurred at Blakenhall, one at Brindley, and twelve at Wybunbury. In *March* one case occurred at Blakenhall, one at Broomhall, one at Checkley, three at Hough, one at Ravensmoor, one at Stapeley, one at Sound, and two at Wybunbury. In *April* two cases occurred at Blakenhall, one at Hough, and three at Sound. In *May* one case occurred at Bridgemere, one at Hough, one at Hunsterson, and three at Sound. In *June* two cases occurred at Aston, Newhall, one at Baddiley, one at Hough, two at Hunsterson, and one at Wybunbury. In *July* two cases occurred at Gorsty Hill, Weston, one at Hatherton, three at Wybunbury, and two at Weston. In *August* two cases occurred at Basford, two at Gorsty Hill, six at Wybunbury, two at Walgherton, and three at Willaston. In *September* one case occurred at Basford, one at Blakenhall, one at Church Coppenhall, three at Shavington, one at Weston, one at Willaston, and two at Wettenhall. In *October* one case occurred at Brindley, one at Burland, two at Faddiley, one at Haslington, two at Shavington, one at Wybunbury, three at Weston, two at Willaston, one at Wettenhall, and two at Worleston. In *November* one case occurred at Alvaston, five at Brindley, one at Buerton, three at Crewe, three at Chorley, four at Faddiley, three at Stapeley, one at Spurstow, seven at Willaston, and one at Wrinehill. In *December* one case occurred at Batherton, one at Church Coppenhall, one at Chorley, four at Faddiley, one at Shavington, one at Weston, and six at Willaston.

(b) **DIPHTHERIA AND CROUP.**—In *January* a case was reported from the Workhouse (Alvaston), and one at Cholmondeston. In *February* two cases occurred at Bulkeley. In *March* one case occurred at Woolstanwood. In *April* one occurred at Shavington. In *May* one case occurred at Alpraham, and one at Hunsterson. In *August* one case was reported at Chorlton, and one at Wrinehill. In *October* one case was reported from Gresty.

(c) **ENTERIC FEVER.**—In *April* four cases of this disease occurred at a farmhouse at Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, where the drainage was very defective and the water-supply most objectionable. In *July* one case occurred at Alpraham, and one at Haslington. In *August* one case occurred at Audlem at a house

where no gross sanitary defect was discoverable. In *October* a case, which proved fatal, occurred at a public-house at Haslington. In *November* a case occurred at Crewe.

(d) PUERPERAL FEVER.—One mild case of this disease was reported from Woolstanwood in the month of *April*.

(e) ERYSIPELAS.—Cases of this disease were during the year reported from Alvaston, Acton, Blakelow (Wybunbury), Bunbury, Shavington, Walgherton, Weston, Wrinehill, Willaston, and Winterley (Haslington).

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.—The same methods have been employed in dealing with outbreaks of infectious disease as in former years. In the early part of the year it was necessary to request the closure of the Boys' and Girls' Schools at Wybunbury for a few weeks. In November it was necessary to request the closure of the Faddiley Board School until after the Christmas vacation. In both of these cases it was necessary to close the school on account of the prevalence of Scarlet Fever in the neighbourhood. The system of bacteriological examination of specimens from suspected cases of infectious disease has been of the greatest value on many occasions during the year.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—I am glad to report that a considerable step forward has been taken in this very important matter. A Provisional Order has been applied for to combine the Rural and Urban Districts of Nantwich for the purpose of providing an Isolation Hospital to accommodate sixteen patients. Though this is not a large provision, I think it may be satisfactory, at any rate for a time. I have always advised the Council that, whatever the size of the hospital they propose to erect, the administrative portions should certainly be sufficient for a much larger institution, so that, if extension of the wards becomes necessary later on, the expense of pulling down and reconstructing those portions of the hospital may not be necessary. I am certain that the Council have done wisely in undertaking the provision of a hospital.

DISINFECTION.—A proper disinfecting apparatus will doubtless be provided in conjunction with the Isolation Hospital.

RIVERS POLLUTION.—The pollution of the River Weaver by sewage from Nantwich and Crewe still continues. As regards pollutions of the tributary streams by sewage from the Rural District, practically no improvement has been effected during the year. On the whole the condition of the streams entering the District from Staffordshire, which formerly were much polluted by colliery and other refuse, has been better than in the previous year.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—A considerable amount of extra work has been thrown on the sanitary officers of the Council, by reports received from the Manchester and Liverpool Corporations as to defective cowsheds, &c. These have all been carefully attended to. I have previously pointed out the advantages which would be derived by the District from a proper and systematic inspection of the dairies and cowsheds situated therein. The tendency of the policy of all towns now, is to insist on the cleanliness and healthiness of the cows from which their milk supply is derived. It is almost impossible in many old cowsheds in this District for cows to be either clean or healthy, and the sooner better conditions are brought about the better in every way will it be for all concerned. At present the inspector has practically no time to devote to this important work; in fact, he has hardly time to get through his ordinary duties. In my opinion, the Council would be well advised to give him some assistance, so that he, or his assistant, might have time at least to see that the more glaring cases were put right.

DRAINAGE.—The bad condition as to drainage of some of the larger townships has been pointed out every year since I undertook the post of Medical Officer of Health. The conditions in these places are most objectionable, and, in my opinion, are prejudicial to health. I refer to Willaston, Haslington, Shavington, Broad Lane, Stapeley, Church Coppenhall, and part of Audlem. A portion of a field immediately behind a long row of cottages at Haslington, is in a chronic state of inundation by sewage, and the condition of some of the gardens and ditches at Audlem and Willaston is little short of disgraceful. There can be no doubt that there is only one way of improving things, *i.e.*, the provision of proper sewers, which are in many cases urgently called for. I cannot too strongly call the attention of the Council to these townships.

WATER SUPPLY.—Very gratifying progress has again been made with the important work of supplying the District with water. One hundred and thirty-nine fresh houses have been supplied with water from the Council's mains during the year, making a grand total of 3736 houses now supplied with pure water from public mains. I consider that this work reflects the highest credit on the Council and its Surveyor. I can only hope that the Council will see its way soon to tackle the almost equally important question of sewerage.

I append the statistical tables required by the Local Government Board, and also the Report of Mr. J. A. Davenport, Surveyor and Inspector.

R. T. TURNER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Nantwich, March 2nd, 1901.

TABLE I.—NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT. FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1896 ...	23382	639	27.3	77	122	336	14.3
1897 ...	23483	653	27.8	90	137	379	15.9
1898 ...	23580	613	25.9	64	104	344	14.1
1899 ...	23777	609	25.6	68	112	355	14.2
Averages for years 1896-1899	} 23555	62.85	26.6	74	118	353	14.6
1900 ...	23777	597	25.1	56	94	369	15.5

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water 98458
 Total Population at all ages 22903
 Number of Inhabited Houses
 Average number of Persons per House ... } Not known by M.O.H.

At Census, 1891.

TABLE II.—NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT. SUB-DISTRICTS.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1. CREWE.				2. NANTWICH.				3. BUNBURY.				4. WRENBURY.			
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1896 ...	11141	315	146	41	3538	78	66	9	3105	76	51	7	5597	170	71	20
1897 ...	11248	315	171	55	3538	95	82	12	3105	93	45	8	5597	150	81	15
1898 ...	11340	311	161	35	3538	90	64	8	3105	80	53	5	5597	132	66	16
1899 ...	11547	308	163	40	3538	87	78	14	3105	99	49	6	5597	115	65	8
Averages of Years 1896 to 1899	} 11319	312	160	42	3538	87	72	11	3105	87	49	6	5597	142	71	15
1900 ...	11547	313	173	22	3538	79	58	12	4059	90	61	9	4643	115	77	13

TABLE III.—NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT. CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED IN 1900.

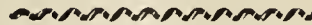
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.				CASES SENT TO HOSPITAL.			
	At all Ages.	At ages.—Years.						Crewe	Nantwich	Bunbury	Wrenbury	Crewe	Nantwich	Bunbury	Wrenbury
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and up-wards								
Diphtheria...	9		1	6	1	1		4	2	3					
Membranous Croup	3		2	1				2	1						
Erysipelas ...	15		1	3		9	2	12	2	1					
Scarlet Fever ...	164	5	45	95	11	8		122	27	5	10	1			
Enteric Fever ...	9			2	3	4		3			6				
Puerperal Fever ...	1							1							
Totals ...	201	5	49	107	15	23	2	144	32	9	16	1			

TABLE IV.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	IN WHOLE DISTRICT (AT SUBJOINED AGES.							IN LOCALITIES AT ALL AGES				In Public Institutions
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and up-wards	Crewe	Nantwich	Bunbury	Wrenbury	
Measles ...	4	1	3					3	1			
Scarlet fever ...	5		2	2		1		4	1			
Whooping-cough ...	3		3					3				
Diphtheria and membranous croup	3		1	2				2	1			
Enteric fever ...	2					2		2				
Epidemic influenza ...	12			1	1	4	6	7	1	2	2	
Diarrhœa ...	6	4		1		1		2	1		3	
Phthisis ...	18				5	13		10	1	3	4	
Other tubercular diseases ...	11	4	3	2	1	1		6		4	1	
Cancer, malignant disease	23			1		11	11	11	1	5	6	
Bronchitis ...	23	3	3			1	16	6	3	7	7	
Pneumonia ...	25	3	7		1	8	6	9	4	5	7	
Pleurisy ...	2		1			1		1	1			
Other diseases of respiratory organs	3					2	1		1		2	
Alcoholism. Cirrhosis of liver ...	6					6		2	2	1	1	
Premature birth ...	9	9						3	3	1	2	
Diseases and accidents of parturition	3					3		1	1		1	
Heart diseases ...	46				2	22	22	22	7	8	9	3
Accidents ...	16	2	2	2	1	7	2	11	1	3	1	
Suicides ...	5					4	1	3	1		1	
All other causes	144	30	9	6	4	25	70	65	27	22	30	3
All causes ...	369	56	34	17	15	112	135	173	58	61	77	6

SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

1900.



INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.—Statutory Notices with respect to 226 premises have been the result of Inspections, made under the Public Health Act, within the Council's District during the year 1900. Re-inspections have shown, that within the same period new drainage has been put down to 68 houses, new privies and covered ashpits have been erected, or old ones altered at 37 houses. Other permanent Sanitary Improvements have been made at 2 houses, and various nuisances not included under other heads, have been abated at 58 houses. In 117 cases the nuisances have either not already been abated, or are waiting re-inspection. Notices in that portion of Broad Lane, beyond the Mile House, are included in the figures here given. Twelve of these houses have had new drainage, and some other sanitary improvements provided in consequence of the action of the Council, but the majority of the notices have not been attended to, and there are now a large number of outstanding notices in the district generally, upon which practically nothing has been done, and after the 6 months limit of time, nothing can be done without the service of fresh notices. This is a state of things that tends to grow and spread, rather than diminish, and seems urgently to call for a more vigorous policy in the dealing with these statutory notices. One house has been closed as a separate dwelling after statutory notice served, and some nuisances have been abated by arrangement.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.—There are scavenging contracts in Haslington, Willaston, Shavington Audlem, and Wistaston, and the following table shows the number of inspections made during the year

Haslington	...	...	...	...	...	600
Willaston	...	...	...	...	...	1742
Shavington	...	...	...	...	...	675
Audlem	...	...	...	...	...	417
Wistaston	...	...	...	...	...	96

TOTAL 3530 Inspections.

as against 3380 inspections during the previous year, showing a steady increase from year to year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Two hundred and one cases of Infectious Disease have been visited during the year, papers and instructions given, and disinfectants distributed.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Special inspections have been made in consequence of complaints of various kinds from the Inspector of the Manchester Corporation. These complaints took the following forms:—1st, Shippons dirty; 2nd, Dung caked on the legs or bodies of cows; 3rd, Large Middens of manure close to shippons; 4th, Shippons low (insufficient air space), and overcrowded; 5th, Shippons dark. The powers now obtained and about to be obtained by the large towns for the inspection of dairies and cowsheds in rural districts, will necessitate a much higher standard of sanitation than has hitherto prevailed, and one in which both owners and occupiers will have to bear a part. It will throw also increased responsibility upon the Council and its officers, and would seem in the future to necessitate more continuous and direct supervision than is at present possible.

NEW BUILDINGS.—Eighty-six plans for new buildings in the District were passed by the Council in 1899; and during the year 1900 plans for one hundred new buildings have been passed, divided as follows:—

New Houses	...	...	...	...	60
Additions and Alteration to Buildings	...	...	...	...	21
New Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	15
New Slaughter-house	...	...	...	...	1
New Public Buildings	...	...	...	...	3
					<hr/>
					100

This makes a grand total of 2101 plans for new buildings sanctioned within the Rural District since these Urban Powers were first obtained. Several inspections of each of these buildings are required during construction, and again on completion.

CANAL BOATS.—A copy of the Annual Report to the Local Government Board is attached to this Report.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—One new Slaughter House has been licensed in Haslington during the year. Various inspections of licensed and registered Slaughter Houses have taken place.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTS.—Special inspections have been made in Stapeley, Wybunbury, Walgherton, Crewe, and Barthomley, under instructions from the Rivers Pollution Prevention Committee, and 28 notices referring to 40 premises have been issued with respect to brook pollutions reported upon. Re-inspections have been made in the townships of Spurstow and Haughton. The re-inspection of the latter township has not been finally reported upon, but in only one or two instances had there been any attempt to deal with the matters complained of.

WATER SUPPLY.—The year 1900 has again been a year of progress in the matter of water supply. Nearly 5 miles of mains have been laid by the Council during the year, and some lengths of private mains have also been put down. The entire length of mains laid since the Council commenced these works up to the end of 1900 is 253,024 yards or nearly 144 miles, and if to these are added the length of mains laid by private individuals in connection with the Council's mains and supplied through meters, the total length of mains laid in the District will be nearly 146 miles, and the supply of other townships is looming in the future. The water works in Cholmondeley and Egerton are nearly completed, and the township of Ridley is next on the list to be attended to. The water supply of Chorley is perhaps within measureable distance, and the water supplies of Baddington, Sound, Austerson, Coole Pilate, Hankelow, and townships between Cholmondeley and Audlem at least have been asked for, and not unfavourably discussed. Whatever may come of some of these suggestions, there is plenty of prospect of work in the immediate future. The water supply of Englesea Brook, Weston, has also been under discussion, and a committee was appointed to consider it. The water supply of Peckforton Township asked for by the Parish Council is likewise under consideration. The Stapeley Waterworks and Reservoir have continued to provide an ample supply of water. The Reservoir was emptied and cleansed in April last. Extensions of mains in Alpraham and Haslington are being urgently asked for. We have had inspections of water works and enquiries during the year past, under the District Councils' Water Supply Facilities Act, in Church Minshull and Calveley. One hundred and thirty nine additional houses have been supplied with water from the Council's mains during the year that has passed, representing a population of about 700, and making a grand total of 3736 houses in the entire district that have now been supplied by water mains laid down by the Council.

The whole District has consumed from the Council's mains during 1900—fifty-three millions and four hundred and seven thousand gallons of water. The balance due on the Water-works Loan for Chorlton Township is now only £15, so that the time is not far distant when the water-works loan on one at least of the water-supplied townships will be extinguished. This should be the "Herald" of the extinguishment of other waterworks loans—a process, I am sure, that will be a source of gratification to the Council and the District generally. There have been 19 waters analysed by the County Analyst during the past year. Two proved good, one second class, two doubtful, and fourteen were certified to be bad. Several private water supplies have been improved. There have been 60 inspections under the Public Health Water Act during the year with respect to new houses. No Statutory Notices have been served under this Act, and no proceedings taken. The service of Statutory Notices under this Act has had very little result in previous years, and so far as existing houses go, the difficulties in connection with the taking of legal proceedings seem by no means small, although as regards new houses, there ought to be no difficulty.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.—None have been taken during the year.

SEWERAGE.—Sewerage questions have only been discussed in connection with Broad Lane, Stapeley, and Haslington, during the year. The sewerage of Broad Lane has receded through the difficulties connected with it. The sewerage of Haslington is in Mr. Baldwin Latham's hands. Levels of the district have been supplied to him for his report, and I have recently heard from him, asking for further levels, which as yet I have been unable to take.

GENERAL.—One thousand one hundred and eighty-eight letters have been written in connection with the Departments during the year. Inspections have been made for the Boarding-out Committee, and reports furnished. Reports from Parish Councils have necessitated more than the usual amount of work. The public lighting of Willaston, Audlem, Crewe Township, and Acton, has been duly attended to. The superintendence of the Water-works, with nearly 150 miles of mains scattered over 43 somewhat extensive townships, is of itself no light matter. Monthly, Annual, and other Reports have been made, and every possible attention has been given to the details of the work in the various Departments.

JOHN ALDERSEY DAVENPORT,

February, 1901.

Surveyor and Inspector.

